

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: February 26-27, 2003

Reference No.: 2.3a.

Action Item

From: ROBERT L. GARCIA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Karla Sutliff
Chief
Division of Design

Subject: **ROUTE ADOPTION, 2-SIS-97 KP 79.3/84.3 (PM 49.3/52.4) Resolution HRA 03-01**

RECOMMENDATION

Submitted for transmittal to the Commission are Highway Route Adoption Resolution HRA 03-01 and the map of a location for the State Highway Route 97. The Department recommends that the Commission approve the resolution and the route location map in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Engineer. This resolution adopts a 5.0-kilometer (3.1 mile) location of State Highway Route 97 near the City of Dorris, in the County of Siskiyou as a Controlled Access Highway.

A Project Report was approved December 6, 2002. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) approval.

Recommended by:


BRENT FELKER
Chief Engineer

Background

State Route 97 is primarily a two-lane conventional highway that was constructed in the early 1920s and was added to the State Highway System in the 1930s. State Route 97 originates at Interstate 5 near the town of Weed and terminates at the Oregon border near Calor. A portion of State Route 97, from Juniper to the Oregon border, was adopted as a freeway in 1953. It was later denominated to a controlled access highway in 1980, but was rescinded on November 19, 1982. The Department approved a Project Study Report (PSR) in 1991 and a Supplemental PSR in 1993 to build a bypass around the City of Dorris. In 1998, the Commission programmed the project to build a Controlled Access Highway in the State Transportation Improvement Program.

The Route Concept Report identified safety and traffic delays in the project area, including three right-angle curves in Dorris and an at-grade railroad crossing. Local and regional support for the project is based on concerns about truck traffic and improved safety.

Route 97 has a history of vehicles leaving the roadway at three curve locations, including hazardous waste spills from overturned trucks that resulted in resident evacuations. At-grade train crossings cause significant delays to traffic up to 18 times per day. A 1993 traffic study showed that 70% of traffic proceeds through Dorris without stopping. Truckers traveling between California and Oregon prefer State Route 97 instead of Interstate 5 due to the flatter grades and the associated fuel savings. Trucks account for 50% of the total traffic on the route.

Proposal

The proposed project would adopt a new route and construct a two-lane expressway from 0.7 kilometer (0.4 mile) south of Richardson Road to Sheepy Creek Road near the City of Dorris, in the County of Siskiyou. The Project Report was approved December 6, 2002 and EIS/EIR was approved on November 26, 2002.

This project will increase the design speed of the state highway, avoid three nonstandard curves, relocate truck and through traffic outside of the City of Dorris, provide a grade separation from the railroad, and improve sight distance. The preferred alternative would include an at-grade intersection at Richardson Boulevard at the southern limit of the project, a full interchange at First Street, a railroad overhead structure near Butte Street, and an at-grade intersection at Sheepy Creek Road at the northern limits.

The total estimated cost for the preferred alternative is \$22,990,000. The HE-14 project was programmed for \$23,700,000 from the 1998 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and will be funded jointly by the Regional and Interregional Transportation Program. This project is tentatively scheduled for construction in the 2005/2006 fiscal year.

Coordination

Caltrans held public information hearings in the City of Dorris on March 29, 1999, March 2, 2000 and June 26, 2002. Caltrans responded to comments from the public and have coordinated with the Siskiyou County Local Transportation Commission and the City of Dorris. Exceptions to design standards are not required for this project. The Negative Declaration/Finding of No Significant Impact has been prepared in accordance with CEQA and NEPA.

Conclusion

The proposed adoption of the new freeway location for this portion State Route 97 is considered to be in the best interest of the public.

Attachments

Resolution HRA 03-01
Route Adoption Map

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution Adopting A Controlled Access Highway Location
2-SIS-97 KP 79.3/84.3 (PM 49.3/52.4)

Resolution HRA 03-01

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation, with input for the project from the City of Dorris, has completed studies and approved of the public hearing process relative to the adopted location along State Route 97, near the City of Dorris, in the County of Siskiyou, from 0.7 km south of Richardson Road to Sheepy Creek Road; and

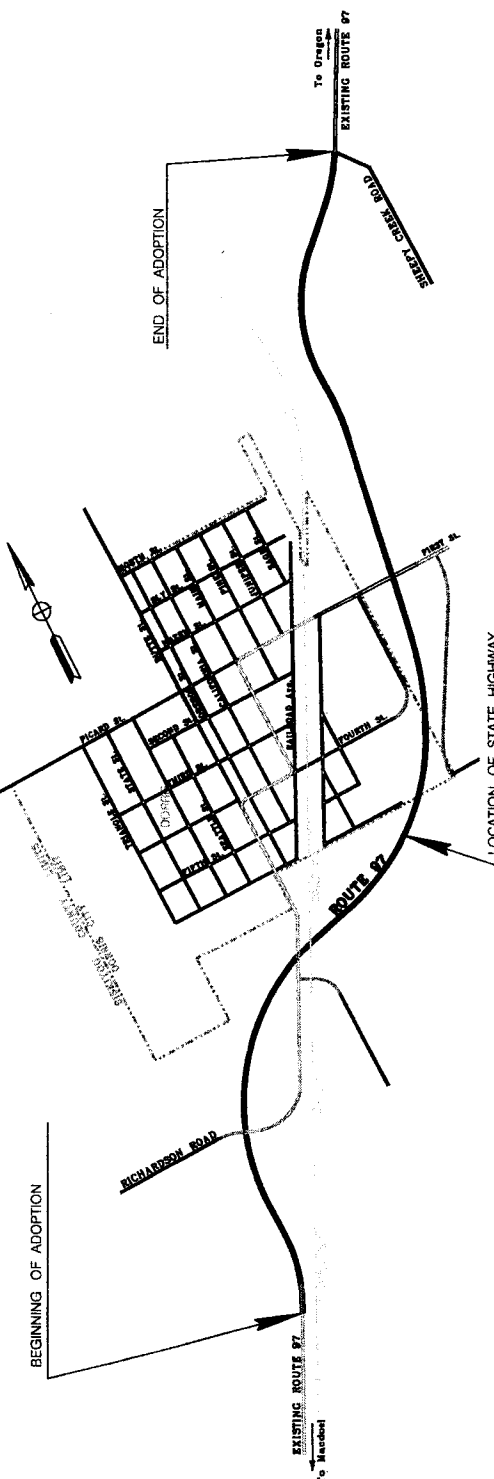
WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has completed a Finding of No Significant Impact/Negative Declaration; and,

WHEREAS, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the California Transportation Commission that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby select, adopt and determine the location of that segment of State Route 97, from 0.7 km south of Richardson Road to Sheepy Creek Road near the City of Dorris, in Siskiyou County and officially designated as 02-Siskiyou-97, as said location is shown on the map submitted on February 1, 2003 by Karla Sutliff, Chief, Division of Design; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Commission has found and determined and hereby declares that such the location of said State highway is for the best interest of the State.

1. This map shows the proposed location of the proposed highway and the location of the existing highway. The proposed highway is shown as a solid line and the existing highway is shown as a dashed line. The proposed highway is shown as a solid line and the existing highway is shown as a dashed line.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MAP SHOWING
LOCATION OF
STATE HIGHWAY
IN SISKIYOU COUNTY IN DORRIS
FROM 0.7 km SOUTH OF RICHARDSON ROAD
TO SHEEPY CREEK ROAD
02-SIS-97
A CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAY

IN SISKIYOU CO. KP 79.3/84.3 (PM 49.3/52.4)